

Guahibo language

Guahibo, the native language of the Guahibo people, is a Guahiban language that is spoken by about 23,006 people in Colombia and additional 8,428 in Venezuela. There is a 40% rate of monolingualism, and a 45% literacy rate.

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Sounds

Stress

Guahibo has a unique and complex stress system with both primary and secondary stress. The stress system shows a sensitivity to syllable weight so that heavy syllables are always stressed. Both contrasting trochaic and iambic patterns are found on morphemes in nonfinal morphemes with more than two syllables:

Trochaic	Iambic
(LL)(LL)	(L'L)(L'L)
<i>mátacàbi</i> "day"	<i>tulíquisì</i> "bead necklace"

The binary feet are parsed from left to right within each morpheme. Morphemes with an odd number of syllables leave the final syllable unstressed (and unparsed into feet):

Trochaic	Iambic
(LL)L	(L'L)L
<i>wánali</i> "crystal"	<i>wayáfo</i> "savannah"
(LL)(LL)L	(L'L)(L'L)L
<i>pàlupáluma</i> "rabbit"	<i>culèmayúwa</i> "species of turtle"

Morphemes that consist of two syllables and are also word-final are an exception to the above and only have the trochaic pattern:

Trochaic	Iambic (with reversal)
(LL)	(LL)

Guahibo	
<i>Jiwi</i>	
Native to	Colombia, Venezuela
Region	Casanare, eastern Meta, Vichada, Guaviare, Guainia states (Colombia) Orinoco River (Venezuela)
Native speakers	34,000 (1998–2001) ^[1]
Language family	<div>Guahiban <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Guahibo</div>
Language codes	
ISO 639-3	Either: guh – Guahibo gob – Playero (Pepojivi)
Glottolog	guah1254 (http://glottolog.org/resource/language/id/guah1254) ^[2]

náwa "grass fire" *púca* "lake"

These morphemes alternate with an iambic pattern when placed in a nonfinal context. Thus *náwa* keeps its trochaic pattern with the addition of a single light syllable morpheme like *-ta* "in":

náwa + *-ta* → *náwata* ('LL)L

However, an iambic word shows its underlying iamb when it is followed by *-ta*:

púca + *-ta* → *pucáta* (L'L)L

Affixation generally does not affect the stress pattern of each morpheme.

Heavy syllables since they are required to be stressed disrupt perfect trochaic and iambic rhythms. However, morphemes with a sequence of at least two light syllables show contrasting stress patterns:

Trochaic	Iambic
('LL)('H)	(L'L)('H)
<i>nónoĵi</i> "hot peppers"	<i>jútabâi</i> "motmot"

Primary Stress. Primary stress generally falls on the rightmost nonfinal foot. For example, the following word

(, LL)('LL)L (*pà.lu*).(*pá.lu*).*ma* "rabbit"

has primary stress on the rightmost foot (*pa.lu*) which is not word-final. However, the rightmost foot (*qui.si*) in

(L 'L)(L , L) (*tu.lí*).(*qui.sì*) "bead necklace"

is word-final and cannot receive primary stress; the primary stress then falls on the next rightmost foot (*tu.li*). Placing a light syllable suffix *-ta* "with" after a four syllable root shows shifting of primary stress:

(L 'L)(L , L) *tsapánilù* "species of turtle"
(L , L)(L 'L)L *tsapànilúta* "with the turtle"

With the addition of the suffix, the root-final foot (*ni.lu*) is no longer word-final and is subsequently permitted to accept primary stress.

Phonology

Consonants

		<u>Bilabial</u>	<u>Alveolar</u>	<u>Palatal</u>	<u>Velar</u>	<u>Glottal</u>
<u>Plosive</u>	plain	p	t		k	
	aspirated		t ^h			
	voiced	b	d			
<u>Fricative</u>		ɸ	s		x	h
<u>Trill</u>			r			
<u>Affricate</u>			ʈs			
<u>Nasal</u>		m	n			
<u>Lateral</u>			l			
<u>Approximant</u>		w~β		j		

A /w/ sound can also range to a /β/ sound within words.

Vowels^{[3][4]}

	<u>Front</u>	<u>Central</u>	<u>Back</u>
<u>Close</u>	i	ɨ (ë)	u
<u>Mid</u>	e~ɛ (e)		o
<u>Open</u>		a~ə (a)	

Vowels can also be nasalized as [ã ã ã õ ã ã].^[3]

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Playero (Pepojivi) (<https://www.ethnologue.com/18/language/gob/>) at *Ethnologue* (18th ed., 2015)
2. Hammarström, Harald; Forkel, Robert; Haspelmath, Martin, eds. (2017). "Guahibo–Playero" (<http://glottolog.org/resource/languoid/id/guah1254>). *Glottolog 3.0*. Jena, Germany: Max Planck Institute for the Science of Human History.
3. Kondo, Victor, Riena (1967). *Phonemic Systems of Colombian Languages* (https://archive.org/details/rosettaproject_guh_phon-1).
4. Kondo, Riena W. (1985). *From Phonology to Discourse: Studies in six Colombian languages* (https://archive.org/details/rosettaproject_guh_phon-2). Dallas: Summer Institute of Linguistics.

External links

- (in Spanish) [Luis Angel Arango Library: Diagnóstico sociolingüístico de Cumaribo, zona de contacto indígena – Colono, Vichadaby Héctor Ramírez Cruz](http://www.lablaa.org/blaavirtual/tesis/unal/linguist/lin1-60.pdf) (<http://www.lablaa.org/blaavirtual/tesis/unal/linguist/lin1-60.pdf>)
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